

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR CENTRALIZING A CERTIFICATE REVOCATION  
LIST IN A CERTIFICATE AUTHORITY CLUSTER

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

5           A method and apparatus for centralizing a certificate  
revocation list (CRL). Specifically, the present invention  
describes a method and system for centralizing a CRL in a  
certificate authority. The certificate authority is comprised  
of a master server coupled to a plurality of clone servers that  
10 form a cluster of servers. Each of the clone servers in the  
cluster has the capability to provide certificate authority  
services. The present invention centralizes the CRL at a  
database accessed by the lightweight directory access protocol  
that supports a Secure Sockets Layer. A CRL merger service  
15 located at the master server maintains the CRL. The master  
server also receives revocation information coming from the  
clone servers indicating a certificate has been revoked. Upon  
receipt of such revocation certificate record, the  
corresponding certificate is added to the CRL. In this way a  
20 centralized CRL is maintained for the entire certificate  
authority cluster of servers.